

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An animal raising and lowering system comprising:
 - an animal supporting platform;
 - a vertically movable structure mounted to said platform to cause said platform to move to selected vertical positions; and
 - a rail structure supported by said platform said rail structure including a plurality of uprights and a plurality of horizontally disposed rails including a pair of end rails, a first side rail, a second side rail, an intermediate rail, and an extensible rail, wherein the intermediate rail is slidably connected to the end rails and the extensible rail is slidably connected to the intermediate rail and the first side rail to restrain an animal.
2. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 1, wherein said vertically movable structure includes a scissors lift.
3. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 2, wherein said vertically movable structure includes at least one hydraulic cylinder to operate the scissors lift and cause said platform to move between the selected vertical positions.

4. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 3, wherein said vertically movable structure includes an electrical motor and an associated control system to control actuation of the at least one hydraulic cylinder.

5. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 1, wherein said vertically movable structure is an electrically energized hydraulic power system.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 1, further comprising a shoeing plate to facilitate resting a leg of the animal thereon.

9. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 8, wherein said shoe plate includes a strap disposed thereon to restrain the leg of the animal.

10. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 8, wherein said shoe plate is height adjustable.

11. (Currently Amended) An animal raising and lowering system comprising:

an animal supporting platform;

a scissors lift mounted to said platform to cause said platform to move to selected vertical positions;

an electrically energized hydraulic power system to operate said scissors lift and cause said platform to move to the selected vertical positions; and

a rail structure supported by said platform, said rail structure including a plurality of uprights and a plurality of horizontally disposed end rails and side rails, an intermediate rail adjustable in a direction substantially parallel to the end rails, and an extensible rail adjustable in a direction substantially parallel to the side rails to restrain an animal.

12. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 11, wherein said scissors lift is housed in a pit.

13. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 11, wherein said electrically energized hydraulic power system includes at least one hydraulic cylinder, an electrical motor, and an associated electrical control system to control actuation of the at least one hydraulic cylinder.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 11, further comprising a shoeing plate to facilitate resting a leg of the animal thereon.

17. (Original) The animal raising and lowering system according to Claim 16, wherein said shoe plate is height adjustable.

18. (Currently Amended) An animal raising and lowering system comprising:

a platform for supporting an animal and movable between selected vertical positions;

a scissors lift mounted below and supporting said platform, said scissors lift mounted in a pit;

an electrically energized hydraulic power system to operate said scissors lift and cause said platform to move to the selected vertical positions;

a rail structure supported by said platform to restrain the animal, said rail structure including a plurality of uprights, a plurality of horizontally disposed rails, ~~and at least one adjustable intermediate rail including a pair of end rails, a first side rail, a second side rail, an intermediate rail, and an extensible rail, wherein the intermediate rail is slidably connected to the end rails and the extensible rail is slidably connected to the intermediate rail and the first side rail~~ to facilitate restraining different sized animals on said platform; and

a shoeing plate to facilitate resting a leg of the animal thereon, said shoe plate being height adjustable.